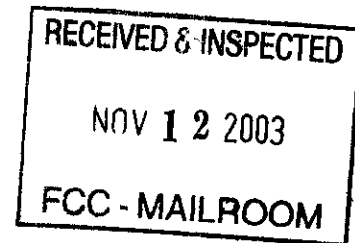


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Marlene Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S W
Washington, D C. 20554

WT Docket Number: 02-55

Dear Madame Secretary,

It's time more attention was paid to a major problem in public safety: radio signal interference. Communications are vital to emergency response – we need everyone involved to know the problem, what they need to do, and what everyone else is doing. It makes us quick, effective and safe. Unless our communications systems aren't up to the job because of interference, which causes delays, confusion and misdirection. In our line of work, this could be dangerous, if not deadly.

I applaud the Commission for recognizing this problem. Now, we need to ensure that the problem is solved in a permanent and proactive manner. The Consensus Plan does just this by realigning the 800 MHz spectrum. This will eliminate the interference problem as well as give public safety more radio spectrum for future communications needs.

It's called the "Consensus Plan" for a reason: more than 80 percent of public safety officials support it. I hope you will make a ruling in favor of the safety of first responders and the American public and approve the Consensus Plan.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Heathman".

Chief Bill Heathman
Hartsville Fire
111 South 7th Street
Hartsville, SC 29550

CC:
Representative John Spratt
1401 Longworth HOB
Washington, D C 20515

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Date _____
